



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

# H-4

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90802 • (562) 570-6383 • FAX (562) 570-6012

October 10, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive supporting documentation into the record, conclude the public hearing, find that it is in the public interest to underground utility lines along Atlantic Avenue between Seventh Street and Pacific Coast Highway, and adopt a resolution establishing Underground Utility District 41. (Districts 1 and 2)

### DISCUSSION

Alamitos Avenue from Seventh Street to Pacific Coast Highway is classified as a regional corridor and has a heavy concentration of overhead utility lines. City Staff, with the assistance of Southern California Edison (SCE), gave a high priority to undergrounding utilities along this street section due to the high degree of visual streetscape enhancement that could be achieved. In order for SCE to begin planning this project, the City must first establish it as an underground utility district, to be known as Underground Utility District No. 41. A map showing the district is attached as Exhibit A.

The section of Alamitos Avenue to the south between Seventh Street and Ocean Boulevard has already been undergrounded as a part of Underground Utility District No. 39 (along with Seventh Street). By undergrounding the utilities north of Seventh Street, this streetscape enhancement would be continued northerly connecting to the previously undergrounded utilities along Pacific Coast Highway. Elimination of the utility poles will enhance ADA rule compliance on this street where narrow sidewalks are very common and pedestrian traffic is very high. Alamitos Avenue merges with Orange Avenue north of Seventeenth Street; this area may be included in the district at the discretion of SCE.

On September 6, 2006, the City Council adopted Resolution No. RES-06-0100, declaring its intention to establish the underground utility District 41, and set October 10, 2006, as the date for the public hearing. A copy of the September 6, 2006, City Council letter is attached as Exhibit B. Notice of the October 10th hearing was mailed to all of the owners and residents along the subject portion of Willow Street on September 27, 2006. This matter was reviewed by Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on August 24, 2006, and Deputy City Attorney Lisa Peskay Malmsten on October 3, 2006.

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TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action to create the underground utility district is requested on October 10, 2006, so that SCE can begin project planning. SCE estimates that the undergrounding process will take up to three years from the date the District is formally adopted by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of this project to be funded by SCE, with rate reimbursements under Public Utilities Commission Rule 20A allocations, is \$6,800,000. The City may incur some minor costs (approximately \$20,000) for construction of underground electrical feeds to the City-owned street lighting system. These costs will not formally be known until final plans have been developed for the project. Such funds, if needed, will come from those budgeted in the General Fund (GP) in the Department of Public Works (PW) for street light maintenance.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Attachments

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

**Alamitos Avenue between 7th St and Pacific Coast Highway**



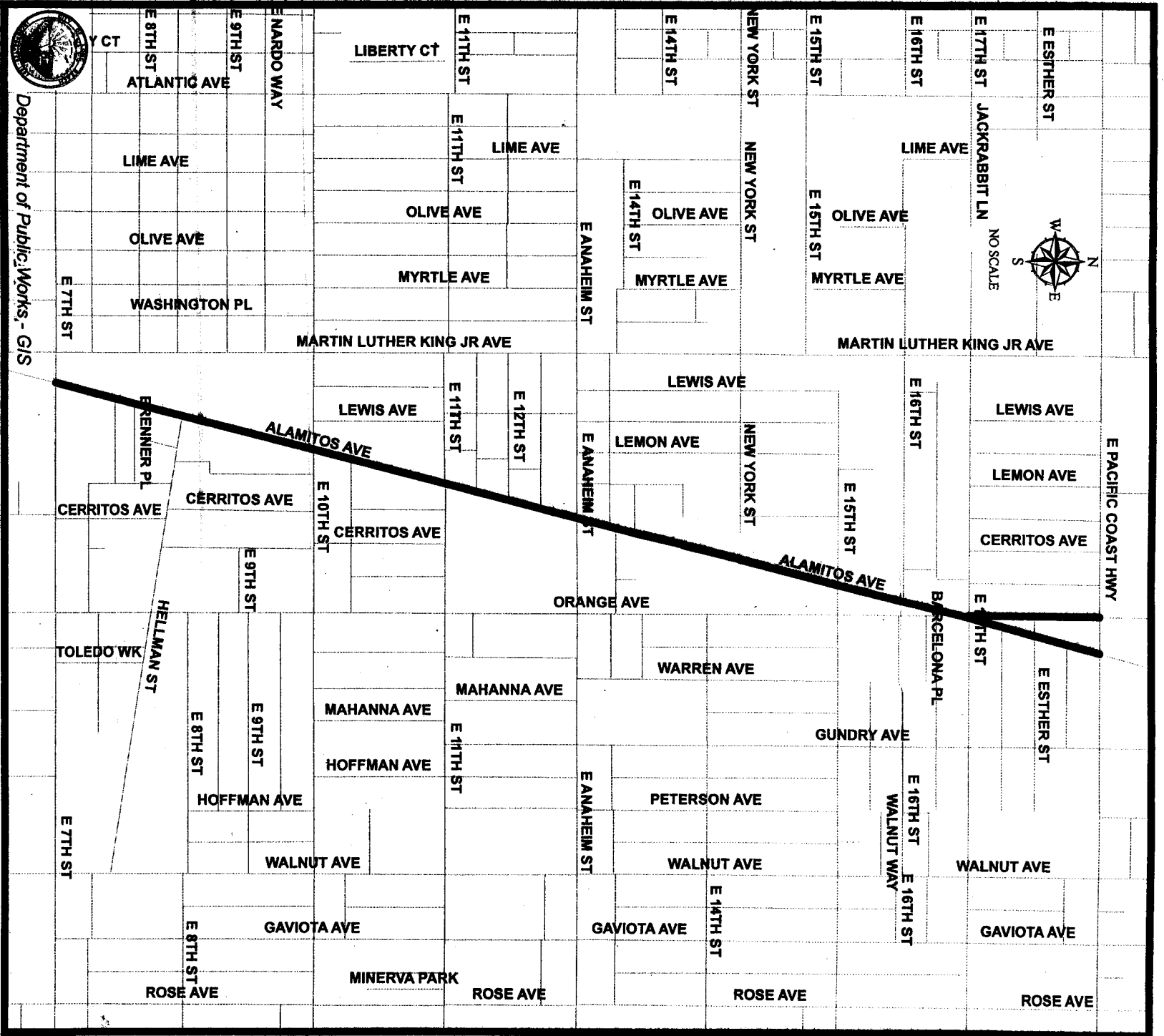
**Tall poles march up the west side of the boulevard.**



**Houses are typically fed off of the street**



**Utility poles in narrow sidewalks are ADA problems**



Department of Public Works - GIS



**UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 41**

**ALAMITOS AVENUE**

**7TH ST TO PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY**

**ORANGE AVENUE**

**17TH ST TO PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY**

**EXHIBIT A**



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

~~R-28~~

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90802 • (562) 570-6383 • FAX (562) 570-6012

September 5, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolutions of intention to establish Underground Utility Districts 40 and 41, for portions of Willow Street and Alamitos Avenue, respectively, and set a public hearing on establishing Underground Utility Districts No.'s 40 and 41 for Tuesday, October 10, 2006, at 5:00 p.m., and direct the City Clerk to mail notices of the public hearing, together with a district map and letter of information, to all concerned utilities and to all affected property owners as shown on the last equalized assessment roll. (Districts 1, 2, 6 and 7)

### DISCUSSION

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) enacted Rule 20 in 1968 in order to systematize the conversion of overhead utility facilities (electric, telephone and cable TV) to underground facilities. The CPUC established the criteria of Rule 20A in order to maintain a general public benefit wherein recovery of the costs of a project are included in electric rates.

The allocation concept was developed to ensure equitable treatment of every local government by Southern California Edison (SCE) and ensure a fair division of SCE funds among the local governments in its service territory. The allocation formula was developed by the SCE and the League of California Cities (on behalf of local governments) and was approved by the CPUC. The allocation formula for SCE is a method of calculating a fair allocation for all communities within our service territory based on the number of overhead electric meters in each community. The exact formula is found within the CPUC Rule 20A tariff. Long Beach's allocation typically amounts to \$2.5 million per year.

Projects that qualify for funding under tariff Rule 20 A are: 1) Arterial and Collector Roads, 2) located on or in heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicle traffic streets, 3) streets and roads with an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electrical facilities, 4) streets, roads and highways of scenic interest, or 5) streets or roads near civic areas.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

September 5, 2006

Page 2

City staff, in conjunction with assistance from SCE, developed a priority listing for potential utility undergrounding districts using the project criteria established by the CPUC under Rule 20 A. Attached is a copy of the results of that effort. SCE has indicated that Long Beach's current share of SCE 's undergrounding budget will allow for the following top two listed projects to proceed:

Willow Street from the westerly City Limits to Atlantic Avenue is a major arterial with a heavy concentration of overhead utility lines in an area of dense commercial land use. The Underground Utility Advisory Committee gave a high priority to undergrounding utilities along this street section, due to the high degree of visual streetscape enhancement that could be achieved. This project is to be known as Underground Utility District No. 40. A map showing the district is attached to the Resolution of Intention.

Alamitos Avenue from Seventh Street to Pacific Coast Highway is classified as a regional corridor and also has a heavy concentration of overhead utility lines. The section of Alamitos Avenue to the south between Seventh Street and Ocean Boulevard has already been undergrounded as a part of Underground Utility District No. 39 (along with Seventh Street). By undergrounding the utilities north of Seventh Street, this streetscape enhancement would be continued northerly connecting to the previously undergrounded utilities along Pacific Coast Highway. Elimination of the utility poles will enhance ADA rule compliance on this street where narrow sidewalks are very common and pedestrian traffic is very high. This street section was prioritized by the Underground Utility Advisory Committee as Underground Utility District No. 41. A map showing the district is attached to the Resolution of Intention.

In order for SCE to begin preparing plans for these projects, the City must establish these areas as Underground Utility Districts. This is done by first adopting the attached Resolutions of Intention and setting a public hearing date for this matter. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council will be asked to formally create the two undergrounding districts described above. SCE estimates the undergrounding process will take up to three years from the date the Districts are formally adopted by the City Council.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Lisa Peskay Malmsten on April 14, 2006, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on August 24, 2006.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on September 5, 2006, so that notices for the required public hearing may be distributed and SCE can begin project planning.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of these projects to be funded by SCE with rate reimbursements under PUC Rule 20A allocations is \$6,800,000 for Willow Street and \$2,700,000 for Alamos Avenue. The City may incur some minor costs (approximately \$20,000) for construction of underground electrical feeds to the City-owned street lighting system. These costs will not formally be known until final plans have been developed for the project. Such funds, if needed, will come from those budgeted in the General Fund (GP) in the Department of Public Works (PW) for street light maintenance.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Attachments

APPROVED:

  
 CHRISTINE F. SHAPPERT  
GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LONG BEACH ESTABLISHING AN  
UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT ON ALAMITOS  
AVENUE FROM FOURTH STREET TO SEVENTH STREET

WHEREAS, a public hearing was called for \_\_\_\_\_, 2006,  
at the hour of 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers on the Plaza Level of the City Hall, 333  
West Ocean Boulevard, in the City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, State of  
California, to ascertain whether it is in the general public interest to replace utility poles,  
overhead wires and associated structures with the underground installation of wires and  
facilities used for supplying electric, communication, or similar or associated service on  
Alamitos Avenue from Fourth Street to Seventh Street; and

WHEREAS, notice of such hearing has been given to all affected property  
owners, as shown on the last equalized assessment roll and utilities concerned in the  
manner and for the time required by law; and

WHEREAS, such hearing has been duly and regularly held and all persons  
interested have been given an opportunity to be heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves  
as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby finds and determines that it is in the  
general public interest to replace utility poles, overhead wires and associated structures,  
with the underground installation of wires and facilities used for supplying electric,  
communication, or similar or associated service on Alamitos Avenue from Fourth Street  
to Seventh Street and hereby establishes it as Underground Utility District No. 41.

Sec. 2. All poles, overhead wires and associated overhead structures shall  
be removed and underground installations made in said underground utility district within



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1 the following times:

2 (a) Underground installation by utility companies and reconnections not  
3 later than December 30, 2010, and

4 (b) Removal of poles, overhead wires and other associated overhead  
5 structures not later than December 30, 2010.

6 Sec. 3. The utility companies shall pay all costs to provide no more than  
7 100 feet of the property owner's underground service lateral, and to provide certain  
8 facility changes authorized under Section 15.48.090 of the municipal code.

9 Sec. 4. The City Clerk is hereby directed to mail a copy of this resolution  
10 to all affected utilities and all persons owning real property within the district within ten  
11 days after adoption of this resolution.

12 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by  
13 the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

14 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City  
15 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, by  
16 the following vote:

17 Ayes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 \_\_\_\_\_

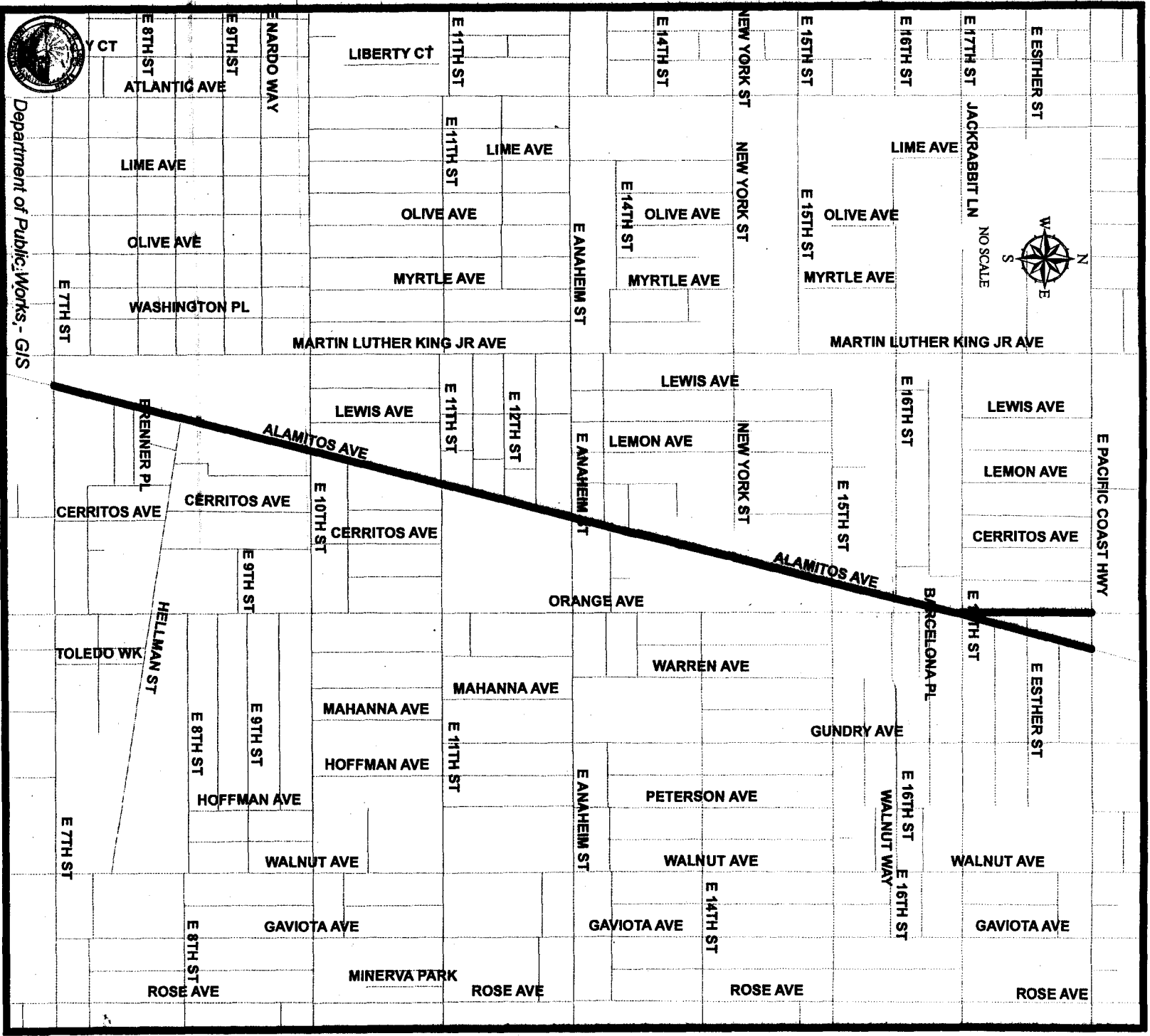
21 Noes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

22 \_\_\_\_\_

23 Absent: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

24 \_\_\_\_\_

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 City Clerk  
27



Department of Public Works - GIS

**UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 41**

**ALAMITOS AVENUE**

**7<sup>TH</sup> ST TO PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY**

**ORANGE AVENUE**

**17<sup>TH</sup> ST TO PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY**

**EXHIBIT A**